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in Short

TIB high-ups granted bail in 2 cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two Chittagong courts yesterday granted bail to three officials of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) in two separate cases filed for demeaning the judiciary.

TIB Chairman M Hafizuddin Khan, Executive Director Iftakharuzzaman and Senior Fellow Wahid Alam got bail in the cases filed on

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

'FORCED LABOUR' Unlicensed brickfield auctioned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Authorities sold a brickfield at auction yesterday nearly a week after it was found operating illegally amid allegation of using forced labour.

The Dhaka district administration conducted the auction of Ekota Brickfield at Ashulia, fetching Tk 5 lakh from the highest bidder.

"We have set an example by forfeiting

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Egypt crisis deepens

Army presence stepped up across Cairo; protesters continue to defy curfew; ElBaradei backs demand for Mubarak's resignation; hundreds escape in 4 jailbreaks; Al Jazeera shut in Egypt

AP, Cairo

Egypt's powerful military stepped up its presence across Cairo yesterday, closing roads with tanks and sending F-16 fighter jets streaking over downtown in a show of force after a day of looting, armed robbery and anti-government protests.

The army made no attempt to disperse some 5,000 protesters gathered at Tahrir Square, a plaza in the heart of downtown that protesters have occupied since Friday afternoon. Night after night, they have

violated a curfew to call for the ouster of President Hosni Mubarak's regime, which they blame for poverty, unemployment, widespread corruption and police brutality.

Nobel Peace laureate and democracy advocate Mohamed ElBaradei appeared in the square at about 7:00pm.

"You are the owners of this revolution. You are the future," he told the cheering crowd. "Our essential demand is the departure of the regime and the beginning of a new

Egypt in which each Egyptian lives in virtue, freedom and dignity."

The former head of the UN nuclear watchdog left after his brief appearance.

A spokesman for the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood, which wants to establish an Islamist state in Egypt, told The Associated Press he was heading to Tahrir, or Liberation, Square to meet with other opposition leaders.

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MORE ON PAGE 7

Buriganga recovery begins this week

Dredging of 23km waterways around Dhaka starts soon

SHARIER KHAN

The Water Development Board (WDB) after many months of delay has finally selected contractors under the Buriganga River Restoration Project to begin dredging parts of the Buriganga and Turag to increase their navigability.

Insiders say the WDB selection of several contractors is now awaiting approval of the water ministry. The board would immediately issue work orders after the approval, which is likely this week, they add.

Directed by the prime minister, the

WDB undertook the Tk 944.09 crore project last year to salvage the lifeless Buriganga that has been battered by industrial waste, especially tannery waste from Hazaribagh for decades.

The project, scheduled to be completed in 2013, aims at reviving the Buriganga by diverting water from the Jamuna. The Jamuna water would be brought into the Turag and Buriganga through the New Dhaleshwari in Tangail and Pungli and Bangshi rivers involving 162 kilometres of waterways.

WDB officials yesterday said the first

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CJ, many judges may not join SC Bar's lunches

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque will not join the annual lunches of the Supreme Court Bar Association, as the lawyers' body now dominated by pro-BNP men has been fiercely criticising him over different issues.

On Thursday, the pro-BNP faction of the SCBA boycotted the chief justice's court, and staged a sit-in in front of his courtroom. They also chanted offensive slogans against the CJ protesting his recent remarks about lawyers.

Justice Khairul Haque yesterday refused to attend the lunches when SCBA President Khandker Mahbub Hossain and Secretary Bodruddoza Badal met him to invite, SC sources said.

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LAUNDERING CASE SC to hear Tarique's plea Feb 6

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday adjourned till February 6 the hearing on a petition filed by BNP leader Tarique Rahman against a High Court (HC) order in a money laundering case against him.

The HC on September 29 rejected a petition of Tarique, senior vice-chairman of BNP, that challenged the proceedings of

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Anti-clockwise from top, a wild cat locally known as Bon Biral is trapped in Sabujpara area of Nilphamari town Saturday night. People poke the caged animal. Corpse of another wild cat killed by locals of Kaniakhata at sadar upazila the same night. Wildlife Preservation Act clearly prohibits catching, harassing and killing of any wild animal. The photos were taken yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

ONLINE POLL

Do you think the two by-elections were acceptably fair?

Yes (38.32%)
No (59.75%)
No Comments (1.93%)

TOTAL VOTES : 1292

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina that the Habiganj by-election is a political win for the Awami League and the government?

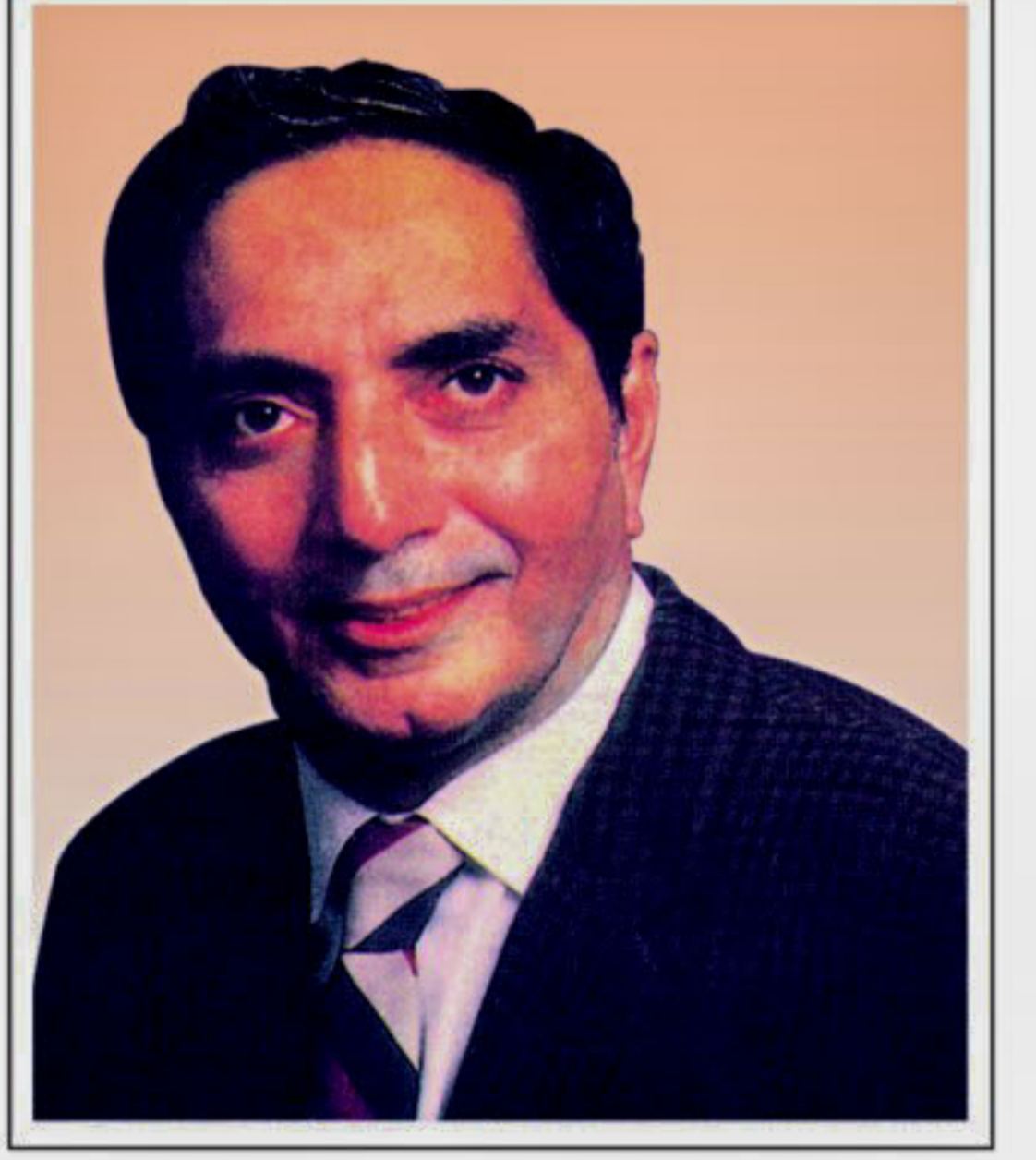
PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING January 31

Azan	Jamaat
Fajr 5:35	6:10
Zohr 12:45	1:15
Asr 4:15	4:30
Maghrib 5:46	5:50
Esha 7:15	7:45

Source: Islamic Foundation

IN REMEMBRANCE



We fondly remember **Late Aziz H. A. Sattar**, the founding Managing Director of GMG Group of Industries, on his 18th death anniversary. He was a pioneer and a role model of industrialization in this country. His unfathomable depth of knowledge, vision, uphill struggle and firm determination inspire all of us. We solicit doa from his well-wishers for his departed soul.

Family members all officers & employees of GMG Group

Unproductive sector loan to get major cut

BB announces monetary policy; fuel price hike by June

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bank is going to take strict steps to reduce credit flow to unproductive sectors. And it will not accept any lapses and laxity by banks in its efforts to restore discipline in money and capital markets.

The warning came as BB Governor Atiur Rahman announced the Monetary Policy Statement (MPS) for the second half of the current fiscal year at a press briefing at his office yesterday.

Atiur Rahman said in the second half of the current fiscal year the central bank would emphasise increasing credit flow to productive activities.

The governor said "Strict surveillance will be there to discourage expansion of bank loan in the wasteful and unproductive sectors to prevent inflationary pressure caused by excessive growth of domestic credit."

He did not go into detail about wasteful and unproductive sectors, but a BB official later told The Daily Star that the central bank will not encourage providing consumer loans for credit card, car, land or flat.

The BB authorities also said monitoring of lending and

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3
MORE STORY IN STAR BUSINESS

SYNDICATED TERM LOAN
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HG Aviation Limited

Participating Lenders

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Eastern Bank Ltd.

January 31, 2011
This advertisement is published as a matter of record only

স্বাধীনতার ৪০ বছর
বাংলাদেশ গ্রুপ থিয়েটার ফেডারেশন এর ৩০ বছর
The Daily Star এর ২০ বছর

জিয়েত নাজি উয়াত ২০১১
২৫-৩১ জানুয়ারি ২০১১
অংশগ্রহণকারী দল ও নাটক

তারিখ	জাতীয় নাট্যশালা প্রতিদিন সন্ধ্যা ৭:০০মি:	এক্সপেরিমেন্টাল হল প্রতিদিন সন্ধ্যা ৬:৩০মি:	স্টুডিও থিয়েটার হল প্রতিদিন সন্ধ্যা ৬:৪৫মি:
আজ (৩১/০১/২০১১)	লোক নাট্যদল (সিন্ধুন্দরী) মাঝ রাতের মানুষেরা	থিয়েটার (বেইলী রোড) মোবাজ ফকিরের মা	সংলাপ গ্রুপ থিয়েটার বদনাম

টিকেট : বিকাল ৪টা থেকে হল কাউন্টারে

বাংলাদেশ গ্রুপ থিয়েটার ফেডারেশন - The Daily Star